

*Interviewer:* I was wondering if you could tell me what your aim was in marching down there to Logan County. What was you aiming to do?

*Interviewee:* Aim going to organize Logan County and Mingo.

*Interviewer:* What was it that they couldn't organize by themselves?

*Interviewee:* Well, they all kept run – kept run out, you know.

*Female 1:* Maybe they didn't want to.

*Interviewee:* Yes, a lot of them did–

*Female 1:* Lots of them was killed, too, I hear the man say. And they took them and burned in that incinerator there in Logan.

*Interviewee:* Well that – I was just talking about that with – I don't know if anybody ever mentioned it or not. I don't know about that.

*Female 1:* Well, they had a battle on that Blair Mountain back in '19 or '20, wasn't it, or '21?

*Interviewee:* '21.

*Female 1:* They killed some men there. One man that married a second cousin got killed there, George Munson.

*Interviewer:* He was a coal miner?

*Female 1:* I don't know whether he was a scab or a miner. But I've heard people say, "Oh, scabs aren't \_\_\_\_\_."

*[Laughter]*

*Interviewer:* Yeah.

*Female 1:* But everybody's got their life to live.

*Interviewee:* Well, I had a time of it. That Bill Blizzard and a bunch of them, though, took them up to Charleston, trial for trying to overthrow the government, you know.

*Interviewer:* Were you up there for those trials?

*Interviewee:* No. No. I–

*Female 1:* No, they might not have let him come back. *[Laughs]*

*Interviewee:* There was a lot of people up there, though. I don't \_\_\_\_\_.  
Good while, though.

*Interviewer:* Well let me ask you another question. I was kind of wondering why was it that you were so worried about Logan and Mingo counties when you had such a time on your hands right here getting this place organized?

*Interviewee:* Well, we had this under control at that time, you see?

*Interviewer:* Mm-hmm. Why was it that it was so important to you to get Logan and Mingo organized? Why couldn't you just leave them and let them fight their own battles?

*Interviewee:* Well, them fellows over there and operator holler – if you're going to unionize one side of the hill why not the other side, you know, of people \_\_\_\_\_ holler in general.

*Female 1:* Well, let \_\_\_\_\_ try.

*Interviewee:* Mine operators are \_\_\_\_\_ work and we'd be out, you know, all that cheap coal, you know?

*Female 1:* Have you got your car locked?

*Interviewer:* No.

*Female 1:* \_\_\_\_\_ boys running up there. I don't know about them. Got a bottle of pop.

*Interviewee:* They're going on, I think.

*Interviewer:* I haven't got much in it that's worth too much anyway. So I've got a couple of books, that's about all.

*Female 1:* Oh, they don't want to look at a book I don't guess.

*Interviewer:* Yeah, well–

*Female 1:* All of the boys that are \_\_\_\_\_.

*Interviewer:* *[Laughs]* So you said that when you'd be out on strike they'd keep rolling the coal out of Logan and–

*Interviewee:* Oh yeah. Oh yeah. Mingo, too.

*Interviewer:* Mm-hmm.

*Interviewee:* \_\_\_\_\_ River.

*Interviewer:* Were there too many guys and miners that were working down in Logan and Mingo who were union men at that time, or were they mostly still not too aware of it?

*Interviewee:* Well, there was a lot of them modern day union, you know, but they was afraid to say anything about it. You know, operators beat up – they had them mine guards, you know? They'd beat up on them.

*Female 1:* I heard a man say even the high sheriff of Logan County had been killed with a bat.

*Interviewer:* Don Chafin.

*Female 1:* Yeah, that's the one.

*Interviewee:* I don't know why he had a \_\_\_\_\_ out, but he had another one, which, you know.

*Female 1:* He was a distant cousin to my dad.

*Interviewer:* Were you here when these mines were unionized for the first time or?

*Interviewee:* Yeah, I was here before that one that's opened up, you know.

*Interviewer:* Mm-hmm. Did they open up union?

*Interviewee:* Yeah.

*Interviewer:* So they were newer. They didn't start out in the scab mines over here; they started out being union mines.

*Interviewee:* Yeah, started out union mines until '21, and then they broke the union, you know, and it was all scab mines then.

*Interviewer:* Yeah.

*Interviewee:* And all that lasted, I don't know, a couple years I reckon that strike hung around. Anyway, \_\_\_\_\_ come down around over here in Lick Creek. I don't know whether you know where Lick Creek \_\_\_\_\_ or not. But we come down and came out of the raid with that creek there; they had a mine up in there. Yeah. It was a mine \_\_\_\_\_ through used to be. And they went to striking and the county just moved them out. But the union get one side to live on down there. There was a whole lot of little shanties down there. Called rednecks. Redneck town, you know. Moved them out maybe \_\_\_\_\_ someone, my team a couple times.

*Female 1:* Them boys have done something to that dog.

*Interviewee:* And I said, "I don't know. I ain't gonna do it." I said, "Let them people stay where they're at." They owned the mine anyhow. They went to scabbing.

You know, I guess the district – I know more than that. I guess the national helped as long as they could, you know, helped them out. I don't know what they give 'em. I know they're given flour and beans and bacon and stuff like that. I don't what all they give 'em to eat. Anyway, they all give it to me, had the creek here and I said, "No, I don't want none. Give it to somebody – the rest of them." I let them stay out longer.

*Interviewer:* How long did they live over there in the redneck camp over at Lick Creek?

*Interviewee:* Oh, I don't know just how long. A couple of years; it didn't take long for some of them. Some of them they could only collect so long. You have the scabs that–

*Interviewer:* That's a long time to live out there.

*Interviewee:* –the scabs that would call the union men rednecks, you know.

*Interviewer:* Why was that?

*Interviewee:* I don't know.

*Interviewer:* I'll tell you what I heard about it. I don't know whether it's the case. I hear that when they were marching down there in Logan County that the miner's used to wear these red kerchiefs, you know, around their necks to – so that–

*Interviewee:* So they'd know who they was? *[Laughs]*

*Interviewer:* Know who they were and they wouldn't shoot at their own men. That's what I heard.

*Female 1:* That's a good idea.

*Interviewer:* That's why they used to call them rednecks, so the union men.

*Interviewee:* Well, probably that's where it got started. Whether you wore it on here or not, they called them rednecks, you know, if they wasn't working.

*Interviewer:* Yeah.

*Interviewee:* And all the people was afraid of that high-powered train when they'd run up here. The Army, two men and a high-powered rifles, you know? And they don't holler at you, 'cause they don't \_\_\_\_\_ have something for them to eat there and to come back. And I don't - \_\_\_\_\_ myself, you know?

*Interviewer:* [Laughs]

*Female 1:* I'd have been with \_\_\_\_\_, 'cause I'd have went to the mountains.

*Interviewee:* Well, several of them did go to the mountains and live.

*Female 1:* There was a man living by us. We used to live out in the farms, about a mile from here. And his name was Alec August. He come from Poland and he was 16 years old. At that time, when that union was over here in Madison \_\_\_\_\_, he worked in the mines and he'd crawl under our neighbor's house and stay overnight. His wife, too. It might've been before they married; I don't know now. But he done that way. He wouldn't fight or he wouldn't work, he'd just hid around till it was over.

*Interviewee:* It must've been – I'd been to Pork Creek and I laid out for-well, tis it was over with, yeah.

*Female 1:* August did?

*Interviewee:* No, Charlie Barton, Buzz Holsom, and a bunch of them down here.

*Female 1:* Oh yeah.

[End of Audio]